

A NEW SCAPOSE ACOURTIA (ASTERACEAE-MUTISEAE)

FROM SOUTH-CENTRAL MEXICO.

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Recent collections from the poorly collected montane regions of south-eastern Pueblo has revealed the following novelty.

Acourtia tenoriensis B. L. Turner, sp. nov. Fig. 1.

A. scapiformis accedens sed capitulis magnioribus campanulatis; pedunculis brevioribus; indumentis involucri densis ferrugineis tomentosis.

Perennial scapose herbs 40-50 cm high. Stems single, terete, purplish, thinly tomentose to glabrate, arising from fibrous roots crowned with tufts of elongate, tawny, silky hairs. Leaves rosulate, obovate-elliptical in outline, 5-10 cm long, 3-4 wide; petioles to 1.5 cm long, tawny tomentose; blades irregularly serrate to 5-7 lobed, the lobes also serrulate, glabrous on both surfaces, or nearly so. Heads campanulate, 4-8 in corymbose racemes. Involucres 4-5 seriate, imbricate, 9-10 mm high, 10-12 mm wide; bracts densely brown-tomentose, the outermost lanceolate, 3-4 mm long, apiculate with claw-like appendages, the innermost linear-oblancheolate with rounded apices, often terminated with a short appendage. Receptacle plane, ca 3 mm across. Florets 30-50; corollas "blancas," bilabiate, glabrous, 7-8 mm long; tube ca 3.5 mm long; limb ca 4 mm long, the lobes 2.5-3.5 mm long. Achenes columnar, densely hispid, 5-6 mm long; pappus of numerous, ciliate, pale-brownish bristles ca 6 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. Pueblo: Mpio. Tamazulapan, Cerro Pericon, al NW de San Pedro Nopala, 2460-2660 m, abundant in "Econtonia matorral espinoso-encinar. Suelo cafe rojizo sobre roca ignes." 21 Oct 1984, P. tenoria L. 7871 (holotype TEX; isotypes MEXU, to be distributed).

A revisional treatment of the scapiform elements of Acourtia was last rendered by Turner (1978). He recognized 10 species. Since that time Rzedowski (1983) has described 2 additional species plus a new variety of A. huaquapana. With the present description 13 scapiform species can be recognized for Mexico, most of these centered in the drier montane regions of south-central Mexico.

Acourtia tenoriensis is nearest A. scapiformis (Bacig.) Turner, but differs in having larger, less pedunculate, campanulate heads whose involucrel bracts are covered with a dense, rusty-brown

felt or tomentum. Their leaves, however, are very similar. In fact Tenorio collected rather typical A. scapiformis at least 3 times in the general vicinity of the type locality of A. tenoriensis (7871, 7826, 7939; MEXU, TEX), and all are very similar. Acourtia tenoriensis is strikingly different, and I have no hesitation in naming the species for its only known collector, Mr. P. Tenorio, a field botanist with MEXU, whose meticulous well-documented collections are a pleasure to work with.

LITERATURE CITED

- Rzedowski, J. 1983. Algunos adiciones al genero Acourtia (Compositae-Mutisieae). Bol. Soc. Bot. Mexico 45: 97-102.
- Turner, B. L. 1978. Taxonomic study of the scapiform species of Acourtia (Asteraceae-Mutisieae). Phytologia 38: 456-468.

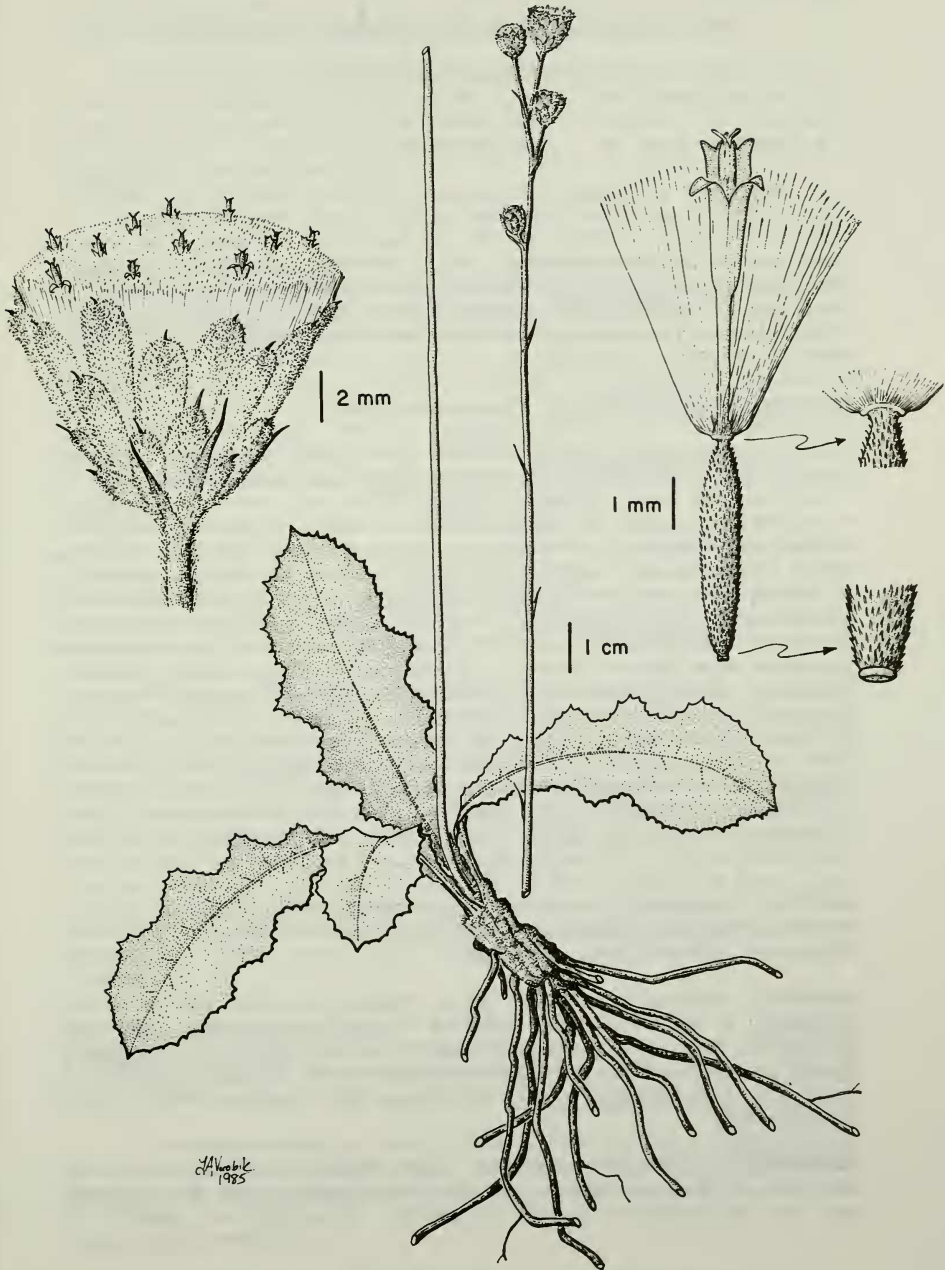


Fig.1 ACOURTIA TENORIENSIS, from holotype